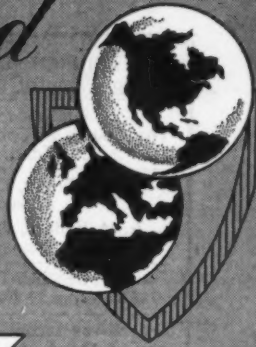


# The Church of God



# Evangel



Vol. 40

April 16, 1949

No. 7



## FROM AN EASTER CANTICLE

trembling bud and bloom  
cloaves the earth, a flowery  
word,  
Thou come from out the  
omb,  
rison Lord.



not dead! Thou art the  
hole  
that quickens in the sod;  
April is Thy very soul,  
great Lord God.

James Hanson Towne, 1844—  
"Masterpieces of Religious  
Poetry."



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## NEAR THE CROSS

(Cover Page)

By Leonard Jones

Matt. 27:36, "And sitting down they  
watched him there."

The most atrocious crime ever  
committed by mortal man was the  
brutal murder of Jesus of Nazareth.  
The people of the world have been  
endeavoring to fix the blame for this  
crime here and there, but fail to lo-  
cate the real criminals.

While Brutus is accused of the mur-  
der of Caesar, yet there were more  
dagger wounds in that noble body  
than that of Brutus'. And just as that  
lifeless body of Caesar's lay in state in  
the Roman Senate Chamber, to be  
viewed by his admirers who knew  
him to be the princely soldier that he  
was, so even at the ghastly scene  
of Golgotha, God permitted the world  
to view the only means by which man  
can be restored to favor with God and  
the only way by which God is recon-  
ciled to man. We could perhaps gain  
a more correct knowledge of the crime  
at Calvary if we should consider the  
various motives that prompted it, but  
that would involve the unraveling of  
political and social conditions

which then existed in Palestine.

Matt 27: 33-36, "And when they  
were come unto a place called Gol-  
gotha, that is to say, a place of the  
skull, they gave him vinegar to drink  
mingled with gall: and when he had  
tasted thereof, he would not drink.  
And they crucified him, and parted  
his garments, casting lots: that it  
might be fulfilled which was spoken  
by the prophet, They parted my gar-  
ments among them, and upon my ves-  
ture did they cast lots. And sitting  
down they watched him there." Near  
the cross the watchers sat. There was  
the careless watch of the Roman sol-  
diers. What did they care? Their hearts  
as hardened stones. The victims  
hanging before them bleeding, suf-  
fering untold agony weren't enough to  
cause them to look away. They just sat  
there and watched, seeing the heart-  
broken Saviour between two thieves  
paying the price of our redemption.  
There were several watchers around  
or near the cross—the careless watch  
of the soldiers, the jealous watch of  
the enemies and the anxious watch of  
the men and women, who loved the  
Lamb of God. There in that group  
was His mother with a griefstricken  
heart, a mother beholding her son,  
the Saviour of mankind, one begotten  
of God. Can you imagine her grief  
when she saw His brow adorned with  
huge thorns and bleeding, His face

which had been spit upon, and  
back that had been smitten? Matt  
52:14, "As many were astonished at  
his visage was so marred more than  
any man, and his form more than  
sons of men." And looking closer,  
his mother beheld His hands which had  
been riven as they were nailed to  
cross, hands that had ministered to  
every need, now bleeding for a  
mob that sat and watched. There  
feet were fastened, feet that had  
walked the dusty hills of Judea,  
coming from place to place, doing this  
for people, people who sat in idleness;  
but now they were fastened, dripping  
in blood.

The thief that cried out saw more  
than just a stumbling block. He saw  
what the cross meant to the Jew,  
but the thief saw life eternal. He  
knew Jesus was in the same position  
in one way, that he himself was  
at the hour, the last, he was pardoned.

Then there was the watch from  
high—God looking down on His  
heaven's brightest jewel. Also, there  
was the wandering watch of the  
angels, seeing the Light of the world  
as He hung there that whosoever  
believed on Him might have everlasting  
life.

Churchill's favorite sign of victory  
was two fingers held in the shape  
of a V, but the symbol of victory for  
the church is the cross.

## TEXAS L. W. W. B.



Mrs. O. W. Kerce

The Ladies Willing Workers' Band  
in Texas has raised near \$5,000 since  
last General Assembly by working  
various methods, each auxiliary using

the method best suited for its  
locality, such as sewing—making  
aprons, pot holders, and quilting,  
baking pies, serving sandwiches,  
cooking dinners and serving them  
to the businessmen, etc.

Then the spiritual uplift main-  
tained in the church by our pray-  
ers is not to be overlooked. The  
prayer meetings are of untold value  
to our churches.

These are some of the things  
our ladies can do and will do as  
part in the church work. So let's  
get them organized and keep them  
busy doing a great work for the  
Church that we love so dearly.

We must work the work of Him  
sent us while it is day; the day  
cometh when we shall be laid to  
rest with folded hands. Then, we shall  
glad to hear our Saviour say, "Well  
hath done a beautiful work; she has  
done what she could."—One  
wishes and is praying that we all  
be doing more for the church and  
Saviour, Mrs. O. W. Kerce, Texas  
L. W. W. B. State President.



# EDITORIALS

## Fortunately, They Forgot

**Text:** Mark 16:3, "And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?"

There are indeed far more criticisms than compliments offered those who forget. In fact, forgetfulness is generally attributed to a weak, sick, indifferent, careless, or aged mind. But as conditions, events, and circumstances many times are responsible for resurgency of memory, so are they also to be accredited with causing lapse of memory—forgetfulness.

Those women had witnessed the most terrible and heart-rending tragedy possible. I venture that neither of them would have felt greater heart-pain or mental agony had she herself been crucified. A greater demonstration of loyal discipleship has never been seen in followers of the Lord Jesus. Those women joined the throng following Jesus on the melancholy march to Golgotha, "the place of a skull." They saw Him fall beneath the cross, in human fatigue, after the gruesome sight of the mock trial, and conjectured that they would have shouldered the cross and carried it on to Calvary had Simon not borne it.

Other spectators may have been closer to the cross during the crucifixion, but in heart, mind, and soul those women were not only the most sympathetic observers, and not only near the cross, but, so far as Christian ties and heartfelt sentiment, the spikes were driven through their own hands and feet, and they were hanging there between the two thieves with Jesus. *They and their Lord Jesus were inseparable!* The soldiers gave Christ gall to drink, but the whole gorey ordeal was gall and bitterness to those women.

They heard His seven utterances from the cross, that have echoed and re-echoed from pulpit, choirs, and classrooms for nineteen centuries, which came as near chilling the blood in their veins as the cry of a mother's only child in flames. Those women felt the tremor of the earth and the thick darkness that day when Jesus gave up the ghost! No doubt but what their flesh had a creeping sensation, and they shuddered with dread of the thought of Christ's legs being brutally broken by the soldiers, as soon as they

had done with the thieves; but they heaved the first real sigh of relief when the soldiers passed Jesus up. They were glad! actually glad! that death had cheated them of this merciless custom.

Those women kept keen vigil while Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus secured permission and took Jesus from the cross with tender and compassionate hands.

Methinks I see them march as a saintly escort to the newly hewn tomb of Joseph. They saw how great effort was required for the strong men to roll the huge stone into the mouth of the sepulchre. Then they went their lonely way, with sad hearts, to keep the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a long, lonely day, and its gloominess was only augmented by the report that the Hebrew seal had been placed on the tomb, and that Roman soldiers had been stationed to guard it. The Sabbath ended, and its ending gave them as much happiness as was possible, under such melancholy circumstances. They were happy because they had work to do! That night, as the night before, was to be a sleepless night for them.

Jesus was dead! That they knew too well! His body was lying in the tomb, buried so hastily that He had not even been anointed for burial. But now they had the night before them to make preparation to anoint His body at early dawn. Never was preparation made with more tenderness, loving touch, care, and choice. The best they had, and perhaps all they had, went into the ointment—*Christ Jesus deserved it.* The solemnity of the occasion admitted but little talk. Their deep love and terrible sorrow had placed them on silence, with the exception of a word now and then about their loving task. It was no time to rehearse the horrible atrocity inflicted on their Master. Their hearts were suffering enough as it was. Their sole consolation came from their anticipation of showing the dead body of their Lord honor.

### IF EASTER BE NOT TRUE

If Easter be not true,  
Then all the lilies low must lie;  
The Flanders poppies fade and die;  
The spring must lose her fairest bloom  
For Christ were still within the tomb—  
If Easter be not true.

If Easter be not true,  
Then faith must mount on broken wing;  
Then hope no more immortal spring;  
Then love must lose her mighty urge;  
Life prove a phantom, death a dirge—  
If Easter be not true.

If Easter be not true,  
'Twere foolishness the cross to bear;  
He died in vain who suffered there;  
What matter though we laugh or cry,  
Be good or evil, live or die,  
If Easter be not true?

If Easter be not true—  
But it is true, and Christ is risen!  
And mortal spirit from its prison  
Of sin and death with him may rise!  
Worthwhile the struggle, sure the prize,  
Since Easter, aye, is true!

Henry H. Barstow, 1866-1944.

Dawn came, and they started on their mission along the vague, dimly lighted road that wound its way to the sepulchre. Then the sudden ejaculation from one in the group startled them out of their wits, "Who shall roll us the stone away?"

(Continued on page 15)





# WHY OBSERVE EASTER

By G. H. MONTGOMERY

OCCASIONALLY, we find a peculiar type of conscience, which offers strong objections to the celebration of religious anniversaries, such as Christmas and Easter. These objections are based on several arguments which usually spring from a supposition that Easter and Christmas have their origin in some ancient feast days of the heathen, and, therefore, Christians should have absolutely nothing to do with them. According to this opposition, Easter is supposed to be a carry-over from the feast of the old Saxon god Eastre, as the use of eggs and rabbits in the celebration prove. Musty manuscripts and ancient books are solemnly produced to prove this contention, and because of this overwhelming evidence, every Christian should straightway renounce all connections with an Easter celebration, according to the demands of the opposition.

It may be easily seen that, if we should follow this argument far enough we should soon be deprived of every external benefit of the Christian religion, while every provision of worship, including our churches, would be taken away from us. It is the same confusing argument that throws those incapable of individual thinking into a turmoil about the Sabbath. For instance, they denounce the observation of Sunday as the Christian Sabbath, declaring it to be the day named after the ancient sun god, and then they accept Saturday which was named after the devil himself. Such a line of reasoning can do absolutely no good, and may do a great amount of serious injury to the faith of many.

Satan and his crowd today use Sunday as a day of intensified sinning and increased evil wherever they are allowed to do so. However, the true Christian will still cling to his right to worship God on the Christian Sabbath. Multitudes still use Christmas as a day of carousal and a season of intemperance, but Christmas still means something else to those who remembers worshipfully the Babe of Bethlehem. Likewise, Easter has not only an unsavory background, but is yet taken as a day of worldliness and



G. H. MONTGOMERY  
Editor Pentecostal Holiness Advocate

vanity; but it is still, to the Christian heart, a day of gladness, because it renews the glorious message, "The Lord is risen indeed!" There is no doubt that much spiritual good may be derived from the right celebration of Easter. Let us note some of the blessings that we may receive from the observance of this day:

*First, it refreshes the Christian's memory of the blessed reality of the literal resurrection of our Lord.* The message of the empty tomb is still a message of glory to those who trust in Christ for their salvation. Through the routine of our labors and the natural course of human existence, we may remember only in a vague sort of way that our Lord broke the bands of death and freed Himself and all the Old Testament saints from the confines of Sheol. Our memories may be dwelling upon things of less importance, and we may be taken up with events of the present which strive to crowd out the realities of the resurrection; and then comes Easter, and with it the renewal of the message, "The Lord is risen, and hath appeared unto Simon . . . and unto me!"

To say that we do not need refreshing annually is to place ourselves on a level with those who declare that we do not need revival. If we have never been lifted up to the glories of a realization of Christ's resurrection, we may never feel the need of being carried there again. We have never entered into a new covenant with our God, and have never felt the fire of the heavenly Shekinah upon our hearts, we may never feel the need of getting close before God and praying through new revival waves; but we who have tasted of these blessings know the need of the renewal of the covenant upon occasions; and we, who have wept in the garden with Mary when the Lord appeared in resurrected power, can realize the benefits of turning there on the glad occasion of Easter to refresh our memories and live again the victorious hour of resurrection.

*Second, it stimulates faith in God for present triumphs.* "The Lord is risen. Therefore, He lives today to make intercession for us." So the Easter message proclaims. We have faith in God; our salvation proves that. Had it not been for that faith, we could not be in the experience of regeneration today. But we have trials and tests, too. The days of sunshine are frequently dimmed by clouds of weariness and tests of faith. Who does not have these periods of weariness? Only those who never labor for the Master. Who is not tempted and tried by the deceitful power of hell? Only those who do not believe close enough to God to offer a serious obstacle to the devil's program. Therefore, our very trials should be a cause for encouragement and rejoicing, but it is not always that we can so view them. But Easter reminds us of the ever-conquering power of Christ. Easter brings to the memory of the darkest hour in the Christian church, and subsequent triumph of that church, when God showed His mighty power toward the living by raising Christ from the dead; and stimulation of our faith by the Easter message!

(Continued on page 15)

# HE LIVES

**"I know my redeemer liveth," Job 19:25**

**By A. M. Phillips, Business Manager**

Some people in Jerusalem, after the crucifixion, seemed to be overwhelmed by despondency. The great, old wind of defeat encircled those who were followers of the Christ, and, seemingly, was quiet in death on the cross.

Today, we see that death shows no discrimination in its victims. Death takes the mother from her children and leaves some worthless, drunken man of a man, no good to himself or any one else. Death passes by the criminal and takes millions of the best flowers of our manhood. Death passes by the beds of thousands of hopelessly sick and suffering and takes a happy, healthy young woman who cries out, "Life is so sweet. I don't want to die." Death takes thousands

of little innocent babies and leaves the crippled older people. Death is even cruel to our Saviour inasmuch as He cried, "Why hast thou forsaken me?" But Job had the assurance and emphasized, "I know my redeemer liveth." So we join the Apostle Paul in rejoicing at Easter time, because he assured us that Christ is risen from the dead, and we have the assurance that because He lives we shall live also.

The assurance that He lives takes away all doubt, and to know the Redeemer liveth is that assurance. It is a great thing to be able to say "I know" with regard to the eternal realities. There are many Christians who fall short just at this very point. They lack the glad note of certainty in their religion. They doubt their beliefs and believe their doubts. They listen to the whispering of the devil instead of staying their faith upon the Word of God.

We look next at the word "redeem—What does it mean? Redemption is the act of deliverance—deliverance from the act of purchase, by payment of price. This word, then, takes us right to the cross and speaks to us of Him, "who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our

justification."

The empty tomb is the pledge and promise of a perfect salvation, a complete atonement. By the sacrifice on the cross, our loving Saviour paid the full price of sin, and on the third day He was raised from the dead in positive proof that the work was finished once and for all. The resurrection, it has been said, was the "receipt" by which God attested that the account of sin was settled. "We have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Wonderful Deliverer! Wonderful deliverance! Praise God He liveth! I know that my Redeemer liveth. Oh, the glorious triumph of the Easter tidings!

Today this living, risen Christ holds the key to the prison house



## BECAUSE HE LIVES I SHALL LIVE ALSO

*I know that my Redeemer lives—  
What joy the blest assurance gives!*

*He lives, He lives, who once was  
dead!*

*He lives, my everlasting Head!*

*He lives, to bless me with His love!*

*He lives, to plead for me above;*

*He lives, my hungry soul to feed;*

*He lives, to help in time of need.*

*He lives and grants me daily breath;*

*He lives, and I shall conquer death;*

*He lives, my mansion to prepare;*

*He lives, to bring me safely there.*

*He lives, all glory to His name;*

*He lives, my Saviour, still the same;*

*What joy the blest assurance gives—*

*I know that my Redeemer lives!*

of sin's tyranny. One has only to thumb through the precious books of the Bible to discover such glowing lines as, "Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood"; "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up"; and "He is not here, for he is risen."

Journey back to the town of Jerusalem and hear many men talking concerning the Christ who lives. They seem to say, "Evidence is conclusive that the scriptural account of Christ's resurrection is entirely accurate." Resurrection morning was the most significant day since the beginning of time. It was the morning on which Jesus Christ fulfilled His promise to rise from the dead.

Thank God that on resurrection morning, the Lord Jesus arose, as He said He would. His resurrection is proved by the number of witnesses to whom He appeared, by the conclusive proofs He gave them of His resurrection, by their character and subsequent behaviour, and by their convincing testimony of the fact. His resurrection is of inestimable importance, because it proved He is the only begotten Son of God; that His atoning sacrifice has been accepted of the Father for all who believe on Him as Saviour; that there is a judgment to come and He is the Judge; and that He is able to raise the dead as He has promised. Belief in His resurrection is indispensable, for God says, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

No wonder what happened on resurrection morning was the most significant event in the history of the world!

When a person reads about and meditates on the wonderful resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, one feels like joining with the poets who have so magnificently stated, "He lives."



**GLOVER P. LEDFORD**  
Head of Bookkeeping Department

• • •  
"Why seek ye the living among the dead?" Luke 24:5b.

Words of the text were uttered by two angels, directed to Mary Magdalene and other women standing at the sepulchre of Jesus, where they had come prepared to anoint His body.

After the shameful and ignominious crucifixion, Joseph of Arimathea, a courageous and honorable counselor, who had not consented to the proceedings of the mock trial and decision of the Sanhedrin, went to Pilate, and asked for and received the body from the cross for burial.

Scripture records show that, being a disciple of Jesus, this good man waited for the kingdom of God; also, that Nicodemus, another reputable member of the high court, aided and encouraged Joseph in his kind undertaking.

From personal knowledge and sources of information which these noted men would gather while serving in such honored positions, it is reasonable to believe that each was fully convinced that Jesus was truly the Son of God. They knew He did not deal in the external, but in the realities of a deeper and higher life, doing the things that no man could do except God be with him, tasting of death in its bitterest form while hanging on the cross; yet, He was not forgetful to answer the poor dying thief and assure him a place in paradise.

# The Resurrection Morning

By Glover P. Ledford

Such unseen and hitherto unknown characteristics seized upon and prompted the action, deep respect, and reverence manifested by Joseph and Nicodemus in the preparation and placing of the body of the Lord in Joseph's own newly made and expensive sepulchre.

Mitigating circumstances and the tense spirit of persecution then prevailing made this deed of kindness the more graceful. It was indeed noble, commendable, and God-honored.

Mary Magdalene and the other women had followed the burial procession, beheld the sepulchre and how His body was laid, returned, and prepared spices and ointments for use following the Sabbath. Then, "upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning (dawn of day), they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." Staring at an empty tomb, their reasoning led them to believe that His body had been stolen and moved to some secret place. They were deeply grieved that they might never know where their Friend had been laid. While in such perplexity, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel and made an usual inquiry: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen."

It was wonderful news—"He is not here, but is risen!" but, notwithstanding the stone being removed, the tomb empty, and the declaration of the angels, the full comprehension of His resurrection, the one most important and grand event of the ages, did not come until the sound of the Master's voice was heard and the sight and recognition of His bodily appearance was made to Mary Magdalene. Doubtlessly, the mortal could not have endured without a graduation process.

Praise to God for the fact and blessed reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Thrilled on the day of the resurrection, by seeing, conversing, and recognizing the risen Lord in person, were Mary Magdalene, Peter, Cleopas and another Emmaus disciple, who had hearts burned within as He talked with them in journey, and the eleven gathered together, and them were with them, at night.

St. John 20:8, "That other disciples which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw and believed," doubly means that he believed, without seeing, the physical person, that the Lord Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

There are those who live today with burning-heart experiences. They have never viewed the physical or glorified person of the Master, but their ever-abiding faith assures them that such will be a blessed and glorious reality, through His power and resurrection.

St. Paul, one of the greatest Christian warriors of the New Testament, and a loyal follower of Jesus, who was beaten, stoned, imprisoned, and last beheaded, wrote before his death saying: "I am now ready to be offered. . . I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness," 2 Timothy 4:6-8a. Men can live that way. Men have lived that way. Men are living that way, and will share the blessing of a crown and eternal life in the same manner as St. Paul, after the resurrection.

Faith which prompted the sincerity and earnestness of the early followers of Christ resulted in and made their stories of the resurrection convincing. Unnumbered thousands believed unto death. Like faith, sincerity, and labors of love in the Lord bring like results in this present time.



# He Is Not Here

REV. J. D. FREE  
Accountant, Lee College



When we walk through a cemetery and look at the tombstones, we find a common heading, "Here Lies." Then the name follows, with perhaps some praise of the good qualities of the deceased. But the epitaph on the tomb of Jesus is quite different. It is not "Here Lies," but "He is not here," and it is exactly the reverse of what is on other tombs: "He is not here!" And just to make sure there would be no misunderstanding as to what had happened, the angel has-tened to make this climactic state-ment, "He is risen!"

The earth's most famous shrines are those esteemed sacred because they contain the ashes of great men whom mortals have revered, followed, and often worshiped. They are revered because the honored dead are within.

The emperor of Japan travels in from the yearly to the ancient capital of to worship at the grave of the imperial ancestors—the gods from whom the Japanese believe themselves descended. The earliest historic em-presses were buried there; and to them wine, and perfumes are offered, because the dead are entombed there. The English race has one Westmin-ster Abbey, where kings have been buried, and there are statesmen, missionaries, poets, singers—the nota-ble. To Britain, Westminster is West-minster because her dead are there.

Few people would want to go to Washington, our nation's capital, and live without visiting Mt. Vernon—the one-time dwelling place of the man, who above all others, guided and guarded the establishing of our country's independent government. Everywhere around the place are graves and possessions of the once great there, and all are interesting; the chief emotion, the deepest reverence of every American focuses on the simple tomb. All that is mortal, all that the earth could hold the nation's "father" is there.

Other nations have their honored dead. Millions of narrow houses of death, marked by white crosses, dot the countryside throughout the earth.

How hastily the cities of death have widened their boundaries to receive the vast populations newly natural-ized!

Since Adam, the man who should have been immortal, sinned and died, since that first grave, men have been without exceptions finding their last resting places in the tomb. This fate was shared by one, who, one Pass-over feast, died at Jerusalem on the hill of Calvary under the sentence of the Roman governor, Pilate. He died as a criminal. But strangely, two mem-bers of the supreme court of the Jews took His body down and placed it in a new tomb near Calvary. The next day a Roman officer came with the governor's seal, the power of Rome, and affixed it on the tomb door, thus guaranteeing that the dead was there. So Joseph's tomb joined the multi-tude of tombs in which the dead are found.

Then a new dawn broke with the glory of spring, the music of birds, the fragrance of lilies; and as the sun rose on the horizon, troubled women found an empty tomb. A white mes-senger, with words never spoken of any other man's tomb, spoke these words: "He is not here!"

The Shepherd had been smitten and the sheep scattered. His death on the cross apparently had nullified all His wonderful claims of deity and kingly rights, until He spoke to His friends, on that Easter morning, the familiar salutation "All hail!" As they looked upon His heavenly countenance with fear and joy, He minimizes the awful death He has just passed through by this matter-of-fact greeting. "All hail," coming from these lips, spoke volumes. It was the fulfillment of His precious words, "Ye now therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." Their joy was beyond expression; they could show their love and devotion to Him only by prostrating themselves at His feet.

Look at these people to whom He spoke, and remember what they were between Friday and Sunday morning

—utterly cowed and beaten. Besides the sorrow that filled their hearts at the loss of such a dear friend and comforter, they were near despair at the disappearing of all the hopes they had built upon His official position. "We trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel," they said. They were on the point of parting when something happened, and those who had been cowards, in forty-eight hours became heroes. From that time, when, by all reasonable logic, the crucifixion should have crushed their dreams and dissolved their society, the opposite effect ensued, and these same men changed their characters and became the builders of the greatest society man has ever known.

There is no more striking contrast than between the seeming ignorance of the disciples in regard to Christ's teachings about His death and their clear understanding of it after His resurrection and their Pentecost. Their strong faith in the certainty of His resurrection is the only thing that can account for it. If they did not know beyond all shadow of doubt that He rose from the dead, they ought, in all common sense, have scattered and borne in their hearts the bitter memories of disappointed hopes; for, if He had not come forth from the grave, His death would have been con-clusive proof of the falsity of His claims.

If Christ died and still lies in the grave like other men, then the whole gospel of the apostles falls to the ground, for the good news they have to declare is "that God hath raised up Jesus from the dead." But the exist-ence of the Church through the period of His crucifixion, the vitaliz-ing spiritual power that has animated

(Continued on page 15)





# Resurrection?

Text not here: for he is risen," Matthew 28:6



one time. He asserted that four years later he, himself had seen Him along the Damascus road.

2. The second fact that supports the conclusion that Christ did rise from the dead is the transformed lives of the disciples.

The apostles preached a risen Christ, to both Jew and Gentile. They testified to the fact that they had seen Him. "With great power the apostles gave witness of the resurrection." It was this witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus which brought upon those in the primitive church the persecution raised by the Sadducees, the radicals of Judaism, who held that there is no resurrection, neither angel nor spirit. These persecutions would have ended had the disciples ceased bearing witness of the resurrection; but they could not refrain from witnessing, for they had seen their risen Lord, and something had taken place in their own lives.

They were a changed people. Whatever their enemies had to say about their being a disillusioned and a demoralized people, given to hallucinations and visions, the fact forever remains that, after the experience of the resurrection, they were never the same kind of people as they had been. Before the resurrection, they were a hopeless and discouraged group, and of all men were most miserable; but after the resurrection, they were fired with a new spirit and power that no armed opposition could silence. Men who once could be cowed with the accusing finger of a maid, now died for their faith.

Through peril, toil and pain they met the tyrant's brandish steel;

The lion's gorey mane;

They bowed their necks, their death to feel,

And followed in His train.

No delusion or hallucination has ev-

er so stimulated faith and changed the lives of men and women from shame and degradation to consecration for God. Thus, they marched through life with a song on their lips, triumphed in death with joy in their hearts, and rendered a service to God and humanity surpassed only by Jesus, Himself.

So today, the experience of seeing and being with the resurrected Christ brings about a change in the lives of human beings. One cannot live in the presence of the living Christ and not be changed.

3. The third conclusive proof of the resurrection of Christ is the fact of our personal experience in a living Christ.

For nearly two thousand years there has been a continual succession of believing and victorious men and women, who have not seen the Christ, yet have believed. No other evidence is so conclusive as that He now makes Himself known and felt in the lives of His people.

Men who have been immensely wicked, who have stooped as low as humanity could stoop, and who have blasphemed the name of God, have had their lives changed, consecrated themselves to Him, and become living witnesses of the resurrecting power of the Lord Jesus Christ and the effect it has on the lives of men and women. This is sufficient evidence to convince us that Jesus lives today and imparts to all who believe in Him the strength and power of His own life and spirit. The Church was not built upon faith in the experience of the early disciples, but upon faith in Him who has made the continual experience possible to everyone who will open his heart and life to the Christian influence.

Then, it is our privilege to have that blessed experience—the Christ living within. We cannot live on the experiences of the disciples. We cannot live on the experience of our neighbor. But

to be truly Christian, we must have our own Christian experience. Our own heart alone can finally speak to us the simple indubitable fact of the resurrection. Only when Christ lives within can we be certain of His living presence. The poet said,

"He lives, He lives,

Salvation to impart.

You ask me how I know He lives,

He lives within my heart."

Death is the one enemy that mortal man has not the remotest idea of conquering. Man can conquer distance, harness the winds and waters for his service, and drive disease to bay, but he is powerless in the power of death. When death comes, medical science attempts no resurrection. That is the end. Death is larger and mightier than man, but death cannot baffle God.

Christ's resurrection sets man's last enemy to flight. Had He not risen, He would have been forever in a tomb, and death would have been the victor. Gradually, as the centuries waxed and waned, the name and knowledge of Jesus would have perished from the consciousness of men. No one could have kept faith in a God who was visible only once, and that for but thirty-three years, and who, when He was subjected to the acid test of death, had been found a failure. But He did not fail. He conquered death. He was victorious over death, hell, and the grave. He arose, became the first fruits of them that slept, and brought life and immortality to light. Christ is risen!

The story of the risen Christ has circled the globe. Millions have embraced the faith. Their lives have been changed. Thus, the continual succession of believers goes on and on, Jesus making Himself known and felt in the lives of those who believe and accept Him. These are some reasons why I believe in the resurrection.

# Jesus, the Resurrection Life

Rev. R. R. Walker, General Secretary and Treasurer

John 11:25, "... I am the resurrection and the life..."

Greater words were never spoken than the words of Jesus immediately preceding the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Those memorable words, "I am the resurrection and the life," were words of truth, fraught with such meaning that only Jesus understood their true significance.

Martha, Lazarus' sister, said, "I know that my brother shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day"; but she knew not that one standing by her had the power to call her brother from the grave with the words "Come forth." He had the power to give life anew to any who were dead. As Jesus approached the tomb of Lazarus, many were weeping with Mary and Martha, because of their great sorrow. Jesus wept with them and then spoke three great words, "Lazarus, come forth." Their sorrow turned to gladness as they saw this wonderful miracle performed by Jesus the Son of God. Could they doubt what they saw? No, the evidence lived among them and was a testimony to the world that all power and authority in heaven and earth had been given to Christ!

The miracles, teachings, and life of Jesus caused Him to be brought before the council by a cruel mob, to be condemned to die on the old rugged cross. We may suppose that many thought, "Now we have killed the one who said He was the resurrection and life. We won't be bothered with Him any more." Even His disciples went back to their old trade of fishing. But, alas, on the third day after the burial of Jesus, there was an empty tomb; an angelic messenger said, "He is risen; he is not here." News traveled. Peter and John heard that their Lord had risen from the tomb. They rushed to see if the message was true. They found the tomb empty. On the road to Emmaus, the resurrected Christ joined the disciples as they were walking along, meditating on what had happened. Jesus talked with them, and, as they were about to part, the disciples, not knowing that the personality who had joined them on the way



was Jesus, bade Him come and dine with them. As they sat at meat, Jesus blessed the food, and their eyes were opened, and they were sure He was the Christ. They said, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the way?"

Ten of the disciples saw Jesus and talked with Him and later told Thomas of the miraculous resurrection of Jesus. Thomas doubted, and said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." Eight days later Thomas had the privilege of seeing the Lord, but believed that He was the resurrected Christ without having to see the nail prints or feel the pierced side. Oh, that the world could cry out today as Thomas did, "My Lord and my God!" and that Christ Jesus were given full sway in their lives!

The resurrection of Jesus was the foundation principle on which Christianity moved forward during the New Testament age, and is the all important factor in the Church today.

Peter spoke boldly on the day of Pentecost concerning the resurrected Christ, stating, "We are his witnesses to the fact that God has raised him up and made him both Lord and Christ, although a few days past you crucified him."

Peter and John, through the power of the resurrected Christ, healed the impotent man at the gate Beautiful and were met by the priests and Sadducees, who questioned them because they sought the people and

preached, through Jesus, the resurrection of the dead.

Miracles—sure, there were miracles performed through the power of the living Christ. The evidence of the miracles was the impotent man healed and praising the Lord who was crucified but is alive forevermore.

Paul, what do you say concerning the resurrection of Christ? "I was persecuting the Church. I was present when Stephen was stoned to death. I continued to persecute the Church, but on the road to Damascus I met the resurrected Christ and talked with Him and He talked with me. From that date on I was a follower and a believer in Him."

Paul stood before kings and testified of Christ and His power to transform a man from sin to salvation, as well as being the resurrection and the life. We hear him say, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

In I Corinthians, the 15th chapter, Paul shows the importance of Christ's resurrection. Our faith and hope in Christ is of no value unless He came forth from the grave. Our future abode with loved ones in heaven crumbles unless Christ lives and His words are true. But we can say with Paul, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." All that we have or hope to have, that is eternal, is based on Christ and His promises to us.

Paul's utmost confidence in his future is depicted in his final words to Timothy, as he states, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." He rested his case in the hands of the One who could help when help was needed most.

We have a clear picture of the order  
(Continued on page 15)

Why

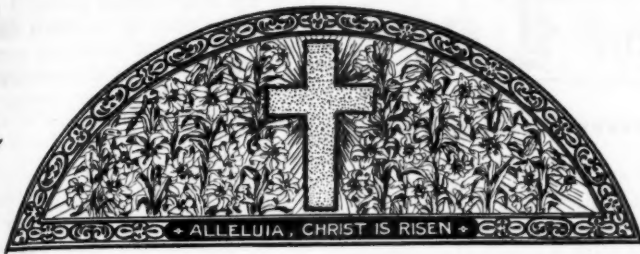
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PRAY FOR:

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Chalk, Jacks  
Me to be  
healed.—Mrs.  
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Me, Texas.  
Me to be  
Mrs. Paul J.



## Why Seek Ye the Living Among the Dead?

Luke 24:5.

By Mrs. W. E. Rampy,  
Wichita Falls, Texas

YOU WOULD think it strange if you saw a man walking in a cemetery looking at all the graves trying to find a living soul—walking among tombs or among the dead, seeking the living. Today, people in a spiritual way are doing those very things. It seems that now, more than at any other time, people are seeking something to satisfy that living soul within their bosom. Many are going among the dead things of the world trying to find contentment. They seek here and there, looking for something vital, something with life. Many of our young people, and older ones too, have forgotten God and church, in fact everything worthwhile, and are going to the places of the pleasures of sin. We find that many people will try to ease their conscience by joining some church, when there is no power, no real heartfelt salvation—just a form of godliness. They have never experienced the change of heart. You can't change the leopard's skin. If you washed it with soap and water, it would still be spotted.

Friends, you can join churches with no power and try to ease the pain in your heart, but nothing but the blood of Jesus will cleanse that heart spotted with sin. You can't find that living Christ among the dead, modern religion of this world. You can't find the living Christ among the dead pleasures of sin. Some are planning homes, buying fine cars, looking forward to a world of everlasting peace. But, dear souls, while you are carried about with these things, your lamp is burning low, the oil is seeping through, and you are losing out with God; you are dying seeking the living among the dead. If you want to find the living Christ, seek Him among the living. Go to the place where the living gospel will tell you how you can find a new life, a new heart, and you can become a new man or woman filled with a living hope. Some day, when this life is over and the sod covers our old, diseased, worn-out bodies, we shall rise with the living Christ, with a new and glorified body like unto His glorious body, where there will be no more death.

## REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

### PRAY FOR:

My little girl to receive the Holy Ghost; my unsaved loved ones.—Connie Evans, Miami, Fla.  
Rev. A. T. Burge, who is critically ill; my brother to be saved and healed.—Mrs. O. E. Burge, Marietta, Ohio.  
My brother to be saved and healed of T.B. of the throat; my unsaved loved ones.—Estelle Stephens, Sweetwater, Tenn.  
A neighbor to be healed of leakage of the heart.—Martha Sutherland, Birmingham, Ala.  
The healing of my body.—Mrs. Everett Turner, Harrisburg, Ill.  
My children to be healed; my husband.—Mrs. Ruby Ray, Finley, Tenn.  
My husband and two sons to be saved and healed with the Holy Ghost.—Mrs. H. A. Chalk, Jackson, Miss.  
Me to be healed; a friend of mine to be healed.—Mrs. Thannie Garrett, Nettleton, Ark.  
My husband to be healed.—Mrs. Marks, Dallas, Texas.  
Me to be healed of a nervous condition.—Mrs. Paul J. Brown, Weir, Kans.

My son to be saved from the drink habit.—Mrs. Dora Fitzgerald, Dayton, Ohio.  
My granddaughter, mother and me to be healed; my husband to be saved.—Mrs. James B. Fisher, Brevard, N. C.  
My sister to be healed of ulcerated stomach.—Mrs. Jim Brooks, Patterson, Va.  
My little girl to be completely healed.—Mrs. B. H. Smith, Henning, Tenn.  
My mother to be healed of cancer.—Mrs. Ivy Fuller, Sugsville, Ala.  
God to heal me and baptize me with the Holy Ghost.—G. C. Evans, Boylston, Ala.  
The healing of my daughter's body; me to be healed.—Edith Dedmon, Selma, Calif.  
My husband and three brothers to be saved.—Eunice Thornton, Lake Park, Ga.  
God to deliver my husband from the habit of drink, save him and heal him of stomach trouble; my mother to be healed.—Juanita Thompson, Hollywood, Fla.  
The healing of my body; my daughter and brother.—Sallie Baldwin, Hallboro, N. C.  
The healing of my body; my husband to be saved.—Mrs. Louise LeFever, Cookeville, Tenn.

A sister's husband to be saved; my husband to be healed.—Rinda Ramey, Davin, W. Va.  
My sister to be saved and healed; the healing of my body.—W. A. Randall, Eupora, Miss.  
God to heal me of stomach trouble; the healing of my mother and sister and the saving of my father.—Mary Smith, Neshoba, Miss.  
My husband and four sons to be saved.—Mrs. Jane Shoate, Gap Creek, Ky.  
My unsaved children; my husband to be healed.—A Sister, Altapass, N. C.  
God to heal me of stomach trouble, a nervous condition, and low blood pressure.—Mrs. Gordon Nunley, Whitwell, Tenn.  
The healing of my body.—Mrs. M. E. Hartley, Kamsack, Sask.  
God to heal my throat.—Mrs. Kate Stowe, Bradenton, Fla.  
God to make it possible for a church to be erected here.—Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Belcher, Lane, Okla.  
My unsaved loved ones; the healing of my body.—Mrs. Minnie Knouff, Warsaw, Ind.  
A way to be opened that my son can get a job.—A Sister, Rock Hill, S. C.  
God to heal me of enlarged heart.—Fred C. Garner, Lancaster, S. C.  
My mother and me to be healed.—L. C. Sayre, Olney, Ill.  
My little six-year-old girl who is deaf.—Mrs. Mae Barnes, Danville, Va.  
The healing of my body; my family.—Mrs. Harmel C. Jones, Memphis, Tenn.  
God to solve my problems.—Mrs. Thelma N. Dale, Fayetteville, N. C.  
My mother to be healed; my baby.—Mrs. Emil Crews, Fayette, Ala.  
Our pastor's wife who is very sick.—Mrs. F. J. Rudesill, Bald Knob, Ark.  
Myrcene Gadberrry to be saved and healed; my body; my unsaved children.—Mrs. W. A. Tucker, Whittle, Ky.  
Two men who are in the hospital with T.B.—Mrs. J. Biskner, Grand Ledge, Mich.  
My brother to be saved and healed of T.B.—Estelle Stephens, Sweetwater, Tenn.  
God to heal me of a goiter on my neck.—E. Newman, Sylacauga, Ala.  
My husband to be saved and healed.—Lula Mae Burgess, Clifty, Tenn.  
My son to be saved.—Mrs. Odelle Wells, Ashland, Ala.  
God to heal me of stomach, heart trouble, and nervousness.—Mary Williams, Nettleton, Ark.  
My husband to be saved; me to receive the Holy Ghost; my sister to return home.—Olene West, Russell Springs, Ky.  
Mrs. Daisy B. Lilly to be healed of nervousness.—Mrs. T. L. Little.  
My father-in-law to be healed of heart trouble.—Mrs. Cleo Surlur, Eubank, Ky.  
The healing of my body.—Virgil H. Shears, LaFollette, Tenn.  
My sister to be saved and healed.—Mrs. Ruby Ray, Finley, Tenn.  
The healing of my body.—Mrs. Ruby Sims, Lost Creek, W. Va.  
The healing of my body.—Mrs. Addie Pulliam, America, Ala.  
God to heal me of a nervous condition; my cousin's body.—Laura Hubbard, Elizabethton, Tenn.  
The complete healing of my body.—Mrs. John Milligan, Pisgah, Ala.  
Our pastor's wife to be healed.—Mrs. Leo Green, LeRoy, Mich.  
The healing of my body.—Mrs. Bessie King, Waycross, Ga.  
My son to be healed; my home.—Mrs. Emma Passmore, Valdese, N. C.  
Me to receive the Holy Ghost.—Wallace D. Jones, Ft. Payne, Ala.  
My mother and her home.—Elizabeth Milum, Ft. Gay, W. Va.  
The healing of my body; a friend of mine to be healed.—M. A. Tate, Pemberton, W. Va.

### NOTICE

I should like to hear from Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Cotnam, or Mr. and Mrs. Truman Cotnam.—Mrs. H. C. Graves, 5116 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis 8, Mo.

### TELEGRAM

Rev. J. H. Hughes, overseer of California, wires that Rev. Oscar Olson died and his funeral was conducted Wednesday, April 6.



# Oh, Praise the Lord

SYLVATUS, Va.—I am happy in the great love of God. I am sixty-four years old and have spent thirty-two years in the Church of God. I still love God and His Church.—J. L. Dalton.

SENECA, S. C.—About two weeks ago my baby had a terrible cold in her chest, and it seemed as if she had pneumonia. I called for our pastor and Brother Alger Harris. They came and prayed for her, and God rebuked the fever and healed her.—Mrs. Evelyn Scroggs.

WILEY, Ga.—I praise the Lord for healing my wife of a terrible headache. We laid the **Evangel** on her head, and the Lord touched and healed her.—M. G. Taylor.

ADAIRSVILLE, Ga.—I praise the Lord for the Holy Ghost and for what He means to me. I thank Him for His healing power. Just a few days ago He healed my baby. I praise God for healing me of ulcerated stomach, and for blessing me in many instances.—Stanton Erwin.

McRAE, Ga.—I can't ever thank the Lord enough for what He has done for me. He has healed in my home many times. I praise Him for healing my baby of a burned hand.—Mrs. J. E. Johnson.

GERMANIA, Miss.—I praise God for healing me of a pain in my side. I placed the **Evangel** on my side, and in just a few minutes the pain was gone.—Mrs. Sam Howell.

MARVEL, Ala.—I praise the Lord for His wonderful healing power. I had my teeth pulled and had been suffering with my jaw. I placed the **Evangel** on my face, and the Lord healed me.—Mrs. Ozeno Yeager.

I praise God for healing my baby. She awoke with a high fever and was vomiting. We didn't know what was wrong with her, but we prayed, and God healed her instantly.—Mrs. Hubert Talbert.

COLDWATER, Miss.—I praise God for saving, sanctifying, filling me with the Holy Ghost, and adding me to the Church of God. I praise Him also for His healing power.—Mrs. Joe Smith.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—I praise God for His love and mercy to me and for a salvation I can really know about. I praise Him also for His great healing power. I have trusted God as my Healer for twenty-five years.—Mrs. E. L. Hicks.

DANVILLE, Va.—I can never thank and praise the Lord enough for what He means to me. I am so glad I can take all my burdens to the Lord and leave them there. I praise God for healing my son's leg when he hurt it. I praise Him also for healing me when the doctors had given me up to die.—Mrs. Doshie Overby.

CRAMERTON, N. C.—I praise the Lord for victory in Jesus. I'm glad because I'm saved, sanctified with His precious blood, baptized with the Holy Ghost, and belong to the Church of God.—Mrs. Eunice Smith.

CLEVELAND, Tenn.—I think it is wonderful to know we have many fine people in the Church of God who know the worth of prayer and trust God for healing. God miraculously healed my side when I laid the **Evangel** on it. He has healed me of many things. He healed me of symptoms of rheumatic fever, and I'm praising Him for it. Pray for us to be a greater blessing in God's vineyard that we may reap a harvest of souls.—Mrs. James K. Earls.

SALE CREEK, Tenn.—I praise the Lord for His healing power. I prayed for Him to heal my stomach the other night, and when morning came the heaviness was gone. I know God is in His throne and answers prayer.—Mrs. Evelyn Dorn.

GREEN SPRING, W. Va.—I praise and thank the Lord for His goodness to me. A short time ago, on my paper for hospitalization was written "surgery." I was prayed for, and God came to my rescue. The doctor at the hospital said I didn't need surgery. Thank all the brothers and sisters in the Lord who prayed for me. May God bless all of you.—William M. Cannon.

HENAGAR, Ala.—I take this opportunity to praise the Lord because He has been such a wonderful Saviour to me. I praise Him because He saved, sanctified, and filled me with the Holy Ghost. I praise Him also as my Healer. I've trusted Him for the healing of my body and my little girl since I received the Holy Ghost, and He has instantly healed us many times.—Mildred Roden.

HEFLIN, Ala.—I praise the Lord for His healing power. My little grandson was sick and couldn't straighten his legs. I prayed for Him, and he was healed. He has been healed several times. I was healed when the same thought I was dying. I will never doubt God's healing power.—Mrs. Hattie Williamson.

METAMORA, Ind.—I praise God for healing in our home and community several times this past year. We trust God completely for our bodies, and He never fails. I praise Him for sparing my brother's life when he was in a car wreck in which the other boys lost their lives. Pray for him that he will give his life to God.—Mrs. Cecil Wilson.

## "JESUS SAVES" PINS

- No. 1 consists of a bow and swinging heart on which the words "Jesus Saves" are written. Packed in a small box, shipped twenty-four to a customer. Retail at \$2.00 each. Price, per 24-carton, \$25.00
- No. 2 "Jesus Saves" pin with chain and cross. Retail at \$1.25 each. Price, each, in quantities of 12 or more 80c
- No. 3 "Jesus Saves" pin without chain and cross. Retail at 80c each. Price, each, in quantities of 12 or more 50c

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CHURCH OF GOD PUBLISHING HOUSE, Cleveland, Tennessee

# REVIVALS

**WAKE FOREST, N. C.**—Praise God for the wonderful, inspiring, church-building revival we have had. Brother L. Leonhardt preached, the Master's song sang, and we all shouted His praises with the angels in heaven, as Christians were inspired to a closer walk and sinners were brought home. Brother Leonhardt was dearly loved by every member for his lovely spirit, his fellowship, and because he was filled with the Holy Ghost and fire. Our pastor, T. N. Ward, reports twenty-five saved, eighteen sanctified, five baptized with the Holy Ghost, and twelve added to the church, which brings the total to eighteen since he came our way. We praise God for Brother Ward and appreciate what he does for the church. Pray for us to reach higher heights and deeper depths before the year ends.—Church Reporter.

church will keep progressing.—Mrs. Paul Moseley.

**ELIZABETHTON, Tenn.**—We have just closed our first revival in the auditorium of our new church located in the heart of town, on the corner of Roan and "E" Streets. Rev. W. E. Buker, of New York, was our evangelist for the second time within one year. After holding such a successful revival in the basement of the church, everyone wanted him for our first revival in the auditorium. God surely blessed many nights, and sometimes the Holy Ghost would take charge. Many were slain under the power. Five received the Holy Ghost in one night. Our dear pastor and wife, Brother and Sister E. A. Kern, blessed many souls with their special singing. We had other special singers and musicians. There were eighteen saved, fifteen sanctified, twelve filled with the Holy Ghost, six baptized in water, and eleven added to the church. The revival spirit is still in our midst, and people are seeking a deeper experience with the Lord. Pray that God will surely bless many souls in our next revival, which starts in two weeks.—Jesse Booker, Y.P.E. Superintendent.

**PIEDMONT, Ala.**—We thank God

At twenty-seven, Jerry Gray thought he had lived too long. He turns an X-ray upon his soul, and, with the clarity of genius, pictures his lapse into despair, his valiant attempt to free himself, and his long and painful struggle to find some source strong enough to help him.

Every word in his story was written in blood and tears. Every word is true. And every word reflects that authority which only personal experience can give.

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for the revival at Herrings Tabernacle Church of God. This revival was conducted by Brother Marvin Waldrop and his wife. There were fourteen saved, nine sanctified, fourteen filled with the Holy Ghost, and six added to the church. Some received the Holy Ghost who had been seeking for several years. The revival lasted two weeks, and it is wonderful how God met with us in every service. Pray that we will keep pressing forward and win souls for God.—Flora Young.

**NORTH LAKE CITY, Fla.**—We have just closed a four weeks' revival, with the Rev. L. B. Hammons doing the preaching. The power of the Holy Ghost was present in every service, and the crowds increased so there was not enough room in the church to seat everyone. Twenty-nine were saved, fifteen sanctified, eleven baptized with the Holy Ghost, twenty-two baptized in water, and twenty-seven added to the church. Almost all of those blessed were adults and a great part of them were men. The Happyville Church has a mind to work and is doing great things for the Lord. Rev. Thomas F. Butler, the pastor, desires the prayers of all that this work will continue to grow. The Happyville Church was organized November 13, 1948, and now has a membership of forty-nine, for which we give God the praise.

## SOME LIVED — SOME DIED

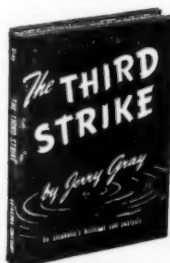
A most marvelous story of God's grace and deliverance of some men in our armed services. The topics are "I Saw My Buddy Die," "The Hymn for Passing Souls," "I Challenge God," "Through Three Sea Battles," "Shorty Knew God," "Lieutenant Goodwin Saves a Comrade," "Subs Can't Sink God," and "Two Soldiers Talk."

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## OVER MAYAN TRAILS

By Dorothy (Pullin) Carroll

(Continued from last week)

After many such stops, we arrived in Puerto Barrios. For miles and miles prior to reaching the port, we rode through huge banana plantations, owned and operated by the United Fruit Company. There were bananas everywhere. The ground was soggy from great bunches which lay there rotting. Even the dogs would scarcely touch them. The air was acrid with the smell of them. Many times I had embarked and disembarked with my parents from outgoing and incoming ships in Barrios. There was no church here then, but now there was a Church of God. It made a difference. It meant that we belonged there. When we were not otherwise occupied in services and business meetings, we tramped the soggy streets, investigating the filthy water-front habitations, or sat watching the great white ships which rode the lapping waves of the Gulf of Mexico. All of us felt as though we would like to call a hearty "Hello" across the waters to our friends in the States. Just before the train left at eight o'clock in the night, we stood at the end of the pier. Luther's sailor heart always seemed to carry him there, and he gazed longingly at the trim ships being loaded with thousands of bunches of bananas. Then we caught the night train, the one which for some unknown reason

is called "El Rapido." The next morning, after a hard, dirty, uncomfortable thirteen hours of steady riding, we pulled into Guatemala City. We threw our sleeping bags and luggage off the train and headed for our Villa Rosita, took a good bath, read our mail, and crawled into bed.

The night before the scheduled arrival of our good friends, Ineze and O'Neil McCullough, we stopped at the post office on our way to the church to practice with the children for their Christmas program. There we found a belated telegram announcing that the McCulloughs had changed their minds and they were to have been at the airport that very afternoon. It was then 7:30 p. m. Breathlessly, we drove to the airport expecting to find two very vexed friends having waited for us every bit of five hours long. Instead, we were informed that due to difficulties with their papers, Pan American had shipped them, at their expense, to Nicaragua. The next day they returned, none the worse for the unexpected prolongation of their trip. Needless to say, we were glad to see them. Both were looking extremely well and seemed to be brimming over with enthusiastic plans for the work of the Church of God in Utila.

One evening, about seven o'clock, we left the capital, with Mother and Daddy, for a visit to our churches in the highlands. The dry season has definitely arrived in Guatemala. We are constantly reminded of that fact by the clouds of dust on the roads. It is for this reason we chose to travel at night. Then, also, it is cooler, and there is much less traffic. Upon leaving the city, we immediately began to climb. Far below us the lights of Guatemala twinkled beautifully, as though we were observing it from a passing plane. About three o'clock that morning we pulled into the patio of the mission house in Quiche.

The annual *fiesta* in Chicicastenango was in full swing. The town was packed with these sturdy Mayan Indians, wearing their typical costumes of short, black trousers and blouses made of raw wool. The rising sun embroidered on the flaps of their trousers indicates that they are sun worshipers. The only accessories to this unique costume are the leather sandals, the long *machete*, and the red scarf worn around their heads. Each male Indian had cradled in his

arms a large bundle wrapped in a sort of cloth, from which protrude thin sticks, about two yards long. These were the *cohetes*—the fireworks for the fiesta. On one end of each stick is a charge of gun powder. This is lit and it shoots the pole into the air, where it explodes with deafening noise. Then the rain comes showering down to earth again. Literally thousands of these and other more dangerous fireworks are constantly set off during the festival, until sometimes the earth trembles and it is hard to hear one's own voice above the noise. An innocent person would be likely to conclude from the sounds of the battle that a battle is being fought.

In the middle of the market place directly in front of the Catholic Church, stood the usual *palo volador*. This is an extremely high pole blessed by the Indian Priest and erected for use during the fiesta. It was a crude and dangerous affair, through which anyone who was drunk enough to wish to demonstrate his courage could do so for five cents. The line of applicants was always long, eloquent testimony to their benumbed senses. Up the shaky ladder they climbed two's to the very top, where two ropes had been wound around an apparatus. Then, tying this rope in the middle of a seat, they swung out and around in widening circles until they reached the ground. Some had the audacity to hang by their feet upside down.

The large whitewashed church, the most conspicuous building in town, directly facing the market square. At the bottom of the wide stairway leading up to the door is an altar of stone. There stood an Indian muttering prayers and burning incense to the gods: the sun, the moon, the wife. His wife, squatting near by, waited patiently for her husband to finish his *costumbre*. In the actual doorway stood three or four Indians swinging incensers, from which came streams of smoke. We walked into the church, the famous church of Santo Tomas.

It always gives me an eerie feeling of being directly on enemy territory whenever I am in any of these buildings. Down the center of the dark interior were hundreds of burning candles and many kneeling worshippers chanting their prayers.

(Continued next week)



## WHY OBSERVE EASTER

(Continued from page 4)

Third, it builds hope for the future.

"The Lord is risen, and because He lives, we shall live also." Without His life, religion would be empty and vain. His ministry would have been a colossal fraud, His life a life of mispent energy, His death a wretched failure, had He not risen from the dead. "But now is Christ risen, and become the first fruits of them that sleep." Looking at death on the other side of the empty tomb, it was the great terminal of humanity. Looking at it from this side of the empty tomb, it is the starting point of that which is glorious and eternal. Not only hath death lost its terrors, but it has been draped with the attire of promise and beauty. Not only is death conquered foe, but it has become a gentle beast of burden, upon which we may ride peacefully into the eternal Presence. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil," for He is there, and He has gone before me; He knows every step of the way, and will hold my hand until I pass out of that valley into the glorious sunlight of my eternal home.

This is the message of Easter to the child of God. Yesterday, he might have felt the gloom of doubt about him, but this is Easter, and the sunlight of heaven brightens the way. Yesterday, the future might have hovered uncertainly before him, but the Easter message has brightened the way, and his vision is true and steady. Yesterday, he might have felt like a defeated man, but what Christian could give up in despair with the brightness of this glad anniversary about him?

Yes, we thank God for Easter and for the message it brings!

## HE IS NOT HERE

(Continued from page 7)

From the time of Pentecostal outpouring in the upper room until this day, is positive evidence that "He is risen" and still lives.

Jesus did not rise to share again in the sufferings of humanity. His body was freed from all the human element in which death could lay hold. That He should ascend in a bright cloud before the gazing eyes of His disciples, was but the climax of an act which began in the morning twilight when He laid aside the graveclothes and came forth from the tomb which had

been made sure by the soldiers of Rome. Olivet cannot be the end, and this proclamation remains the hope of the Church: "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." This seals the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for us, that He ascended on high to prepare a place for us, and that He will come again and receive us unto Himself.

As Christ re-established by His resurrection the faith of the holy women and His disciples, He will also confirm our faith on that morning, distant or near, when light is reborn after night, and we are raised in His likeness. It will be spring, sweet with flowers, sparkling with dew, when on that greatest Easter morning every tomb in every land shall be opened as Jesus' was, by the same divine power, and the resurrection angel shall stand again and shall say of us the same words: "He is not here!" This is the certain faith of the believer; this is the great hope of Easter morning.

## JESUS, THE RESURRECTION LIFE

(Continued from page 10)

of the resurrection in Paul's letter to the Church at Thessalonica, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." On that glad morning we shall know Him as our resurrection and life, and shall

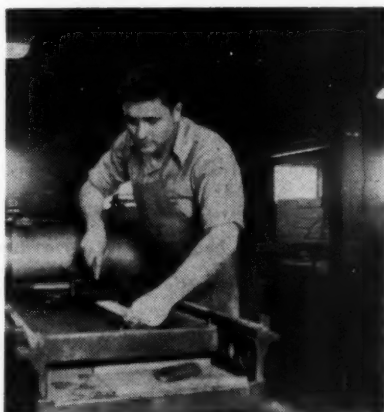
be able to sing the glorious song of redemption, as well as the triumphant songs of His resurrection and our own.

## FORTUNATELY THEY FORGOT

(Continued from page 3)

They realized that in their anxiety to have the ointment ready by dawn they had forgotten about the huge stone. They had also forgotten that it was sealed. Not only that, but they had forgotten that the Roman guard of soldiers was there to prevent anyone breaking the seal, much less entering the tomb. What good now would it do to go there with the ointment? But they went on, by faith, on what appeared then to be a foolish mission. I am glad they did, for if they had not, you could not read, "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: and as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them which told these things unto the apostles."

In forgetting the stone, the seal, and the Roman guard, those lovely women set for us an example, on that first glorious Easter morning, of forgetting the inanimate things—the laws of nature and man, and the animate (people) that would come between us in an effort to prevent our serving and honoring Jesus Christ. Their loving quest of faith led them to the tomb to find the seal broken, the stone rolled away, and the soldiers gone, no dead Christ to anoint, but Jesus, alive to live forever! Yes, fortunately for themselves and for us they forgot.



Ernest Brown, apprentice compositor, making galley proofs of the "Evangel."

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202	Jesus in Gethsemane .....	.30	.15
	Jesus Never Fails .....	.30	.15
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211	Trust in the Lord and He Shall Direct Thy Paths .....	.30	.15
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207	God Bless Our Home .....	.30	.15

5268	Good Shepherd .....	.60	.30
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